## **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

- 1. (currently amended) A fusion polypeptide for expression in a host cell, wherein the fusion polypeptide has a basic structure, in sequence, an N-terminus, a -comprising a TolAIII domain or a functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof, -and-a non-TolA protein partner, and a polypeptide, wherein the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof is located towards the N-terminus of the fusion polypeptide and the non-TolA polypeptide is located towards the C-terminus, and wherein of the fusion polypeptide optionally comprises an affinity purification tag.
- 2. (original) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, further comprising a signal peptide.
- 3. (original) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 2, in which the signal peptide is located at or near the N-terminus of the fusion polypeptide.
- 4. (previously presented) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof has been codon-optimised for expression in the host cell.
- 5. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, further comprising a linker between the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof and the non-TolA <u>protein partner polypeptide</u>.
- 6. (original) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 5, wherein the linker comprises at least one cleavage site for an endopeptidase.

Appl. No. 10/501,071
Reply to Restriction Requirement of June 1, 2006

- 7. (previously presented) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 6, wherein the cleavage site comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 and/or SEQ ID NO: 4 and/or SEQ ID NO: 5.
- 8. (previously presented) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, further comprising an affinity purification tag.
- 9. (original) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 8, wherein the affinity purification tag is located at or near the N-terminus of the fusion polypeptide.
- 10. (original) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 9, wherein the affinity purification tag is an N-terminal His<sub>n</sub> tag, with n=4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 (SEQ ID NOs: 6-12, respectively; preferably n=6 [SEQ ID NO: 8]), optionally with the His<sub>n</sub> tag linked to the fusion polypeptide by one or more Ser residues (preferably 2).
- 11. (previously presented) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the TolAIII domain consists of amino acid residues 329-421 of SEQ ID NO: 13 of the Escherichia coli TolA sequence (SwissProt Acc. No. P19934).
- 12. (previously presented) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the host cell is bacterial (for example, Escherichia coli).
- 13. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the non-TolA <u>protein partnerpolypeptide</u> is BCL-XL.
- 14. (previously presented) A DNA molecule encoding the fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 1.
- 15. (previously presented) The DNA molecule according to claim 14, wherein the

Appl. No. 10/501,071 Reply to Restriction Requirement of June 1, 2006

mRNA properties of the DNA molecule when transcribed are optimised for expression in the host cell.

- 16. (previously presented) An expression vector comprising the DNA molecule according to claim 14 for expression of the fusion polypeptide.
- 17. (original) The expression vector according to claim 16, having an inducible promoter (for example, the IPTG-inducible T7 promotor) which drives expression of the fusion polypeptide.
- 18. (previously presented) The expression vector according to claim 16, having an antibiotic resistance marker (for example, the bla gene, which confers resistance to ampicillin and chloramphenicol).
- 19. (currently amended) A cloning vector for producing the expression vector defined in claim 16, comprising DNA encoding the TolAIII domain or a functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof upstream or downstream from a cloning site which allows in-frame insertion of DNA encoding a non-TolA protein partnerpolypeptide.
- 20. (previously presented) The cloning vector according to claim 19, further comprising DNA encoding at least one cleavage site (for example, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 and/or SEQ ID NO: 4 and/or SEQ ID NO: 5) for an endopeptidase, the cleavage site located between the DNA encoding the TolAIII domain or a functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof and the cloning site.
- 21. (previously presented) The cloning vector according to claim 19, wherein the cloning site comprises at least one restriction endonuclease (for example, BamHI and/or KpnI) target sequence.

- 22. (previously presented) The cloning vector according to claim 19, further comprising DNA encoding an affinity purification tag.
- 23. (previously presented) The cloning vector according to claim 19, further comprising an inducible promoter (for example, the IPTG-inducible T7 promotor).
- 24. (previously presented) The cloning vector according to claim 19, further comprising DNA encoding an antibiotic resistance marker (for example, the bla gene, which confers resistance to ampicillin and chloramphenicol).
- 25. (previously presented) The cloning vector according to claim 19, having the structure of pTolE, pTolT or pTolX (as shown in FIG. 2 with reference to the description).
- 26. (previously presented) Use of the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof for production of a fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 1.
- 27. (previously presented) Use of the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof for production of the DNA molecule as defined in claim 14.
- 28. (previously presented) Use of the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof for production of an expression vector as defined in claim 16.
- 29. (previously presented) Use of the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof for production of a cloning vector as defined claim 19.
- 30. (currently amended) A host cell containing the DNA as defined in claim 14

Appl. No. 10/501,071 Reply to Restriction Requirement of June 1, 2006

and/or an expression vector comprising the DNA molecule for expression of the fusion peptide and/or an cloning vector for producing the expression vector which comprises DNA encoding the TolAIII domain or a functional homologue fragment, or derivative thereof upstream or downstream from a cloning site which allows in-frame insertion of DNA encoding a non-TolA protein partnerpolypeptide.

- 31. (currently amended) Use of the fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 5 for immobilisation of the non-TolA <u>protein partnerpolypeptide</u>, comprising the step of: binding the fusion polypeptide to a TolA binding polypeptide (e.g. the TolA-recognition site of colicin N or other colicins, the TolA binding region of bacteriophage g3p-D1 protein, or the TolA binding region of TolB or other Tol proteins).
- 32. (currently amended) Use of the fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 9 for immobilisation of the non-TolA <u>protein partnerpolypeptide</u>, comprising the step of: binding the affinity tag of the fusion polypeptide to a binding moiety.
- 33. (currently amended) Use of the fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 5 for purification and isolation of the non-TolA <u>protein partnerpolypeptide</u>, comprising the steps of: (i) binding the fusion polypeptide to a TolA binding polypeptide (e.g. the TolA-recognition site of colicin N or other colicins, the TolA binding region of bacteriophage g3p-D1 protein, or the TolA binding region of TolB or other Tol proteins); (ii) cleaving the non-TolA <u>protein partner polypeptide</u>—from the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof using an endopeptidase; and (iii) separating the cleaved non-TolA <u>protein partner polypeptide</u>—from the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof.
- 34. (currently amended) Use of the fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 8 for purification and isolation of the non-TolA <u>protein partnerpolypeptide</u>, comprising the steps of: (i) binding the affinity tag of the fusion polypeptide to a binding moiety; (ii) cleaving the non-TolA <u>protein partner polypeptide</u>-from the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof using an endopeptidase; and (iii) separating

Appl. No. 10/501,071 Reply to Restriction Requirement of June 1, 2006

the cleaved non-TolA <u>protein partner polypeptide</u> from the TolAIII domain or functional homologue, fragment, or derivative thereof.

- 35. (currently amended) Use of the fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 1 for studying interaction properties of the non-TolA <u>protein partner polypeptide</u> or the fusion polypeptide, for example self-interaction, interaction with another molecule, or interaction with a physical stimulus.
- 36. (previously presented) A method for high expression of a polypeptide as a fusion polypeptide in a host cell, comprising the step of expressing the polypeptide as a fusion polypeptide as defined in claim 1 in a host cell.